(b) if so, the number of scholarships and the amount awarded during 1964–65 ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes.

(b) Thirty-nine scholarships amounting to Rs. 3,531 were utilised during the year 1964–65.

SRI M. RAJAH IYER : May I know, Sir, whether these scholarships will be continued year after year ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir.

Aided High Schools Accounts

* 163 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of aided high schools for which accounts have not been audited for the year 1963–64 : and

(b) the reasons therefor ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) 383.

(b) Consequent on the introduction of free education with effect from 1st April 1964 teaching and compensation grants payable to all aided schools have been spread over three years. Accordingly one-third of the total number of schools has been audited during 1964–65. Another one-third will be audited during the current year.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, are the Government aware of the hardship caused to the aided managements by this and will the Government see that all the schools are audited at least during the current year ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government have no such proposal.

SRI M. RAJAH IYER : If there is bound to be delay in the audit, will the Government liberalise the rules at least and make advance grants to the schools ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall answer.

Gifts from foreign countries

* 164. Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN and SRI MOHANLAL MEHTA : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any communication has been received from the Government of India regarding 'gifts' from foreign countries recently ; and

(b) if so, what it is ?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not in the interest of the public to divulge the information.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : What is the public interest involved in the public gifts made by other countries? These are after all gifts by foreign countries. There is no secret weapon or any such thing involved in this.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, if I can explain to the hon. Member the public interest involved in this, I will be, so to say, giving out the whole thing which I am not expected to do.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : My point, Sir, is with regard to the public interest involved in it. There cannot be any public interest in these gifts and I am not able to understand the Hon. the Chief Minister's reply.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM. Sir, if the hon. Member is not able to understand it, I have not the capacity to make him understand.

Gazetted Officers in the Education Department

*165 Q.—SRI M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Gazetted Officers in the Education Department whose services have not been regularised even though there are permanent vacancies ; and

(b) the reasons therefor ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) 76.

(b) The question of regularisation of the temporary appointment of 65 officers in the category of District Educational Officers, Headmasters, etc., has since been taken up with the Madras Public Service Commission and their services will be regularised soon. The temporary appointments of the remaining officers will also be regularised in due course along with the other officers in the Madras Educational Service.

திரு. எம். சங்கரலிங்கம் பிள்ளை : *இவர்களில் அரசிதழ் பதிவு பெற்ற அதிகாரிகளாக ஆவதற்கு தகுதி பெற்ற அதிகாரிகள் எத்தனை பேர் இருக்கிறார்கள் ?*

கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : *அந்த விவரங்கள் இப்போது என்னிடம் இல்லை.*